

International Weather and Crop Summary

September 4 - 10, 2005

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Widespread rain benefited reproductive to maturing summer crops in southern Europe. Late-week showers replaced dry, unseasonably warm weather in northern growing areas.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably warm, dry weather favored fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Welcomed drier weather favored spring grain maturation and harvesting in Kazakhstan, while periodic showers slowed harvest in parts of Russia.

CANADA: Late-week rain disrupted Prairie spring crop harvest.

MEXICO: Showers benefited immature corn and other summer crops across the south.

SOUTH ASIA: Much-needed monsoon rain returned to northern growing areas, while showers in eastern and southern India maintained mostly favorable conditions for summer crop development.

AUSTRALIA: Showers in western and southeastern Australia favored vegetative to reproductive winter grains. Showers in northern New South Wales and Queensland were too light to significantly improve topsoil moisture for reproductive winter grains.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread monsoon showers in Indochina and the Philippines boosted moisture supplies for rice as well as reservoir levels.

EASTERN ASIA: Beneficially warm, dry weather aided mature crops and early harvest.

BRAZIL: Coffee harvesting was nearing completion.

ARGENTINA: Warm, mostly dry weather boosted winter wheat development, but moisture remained limited in many areas for normal development.

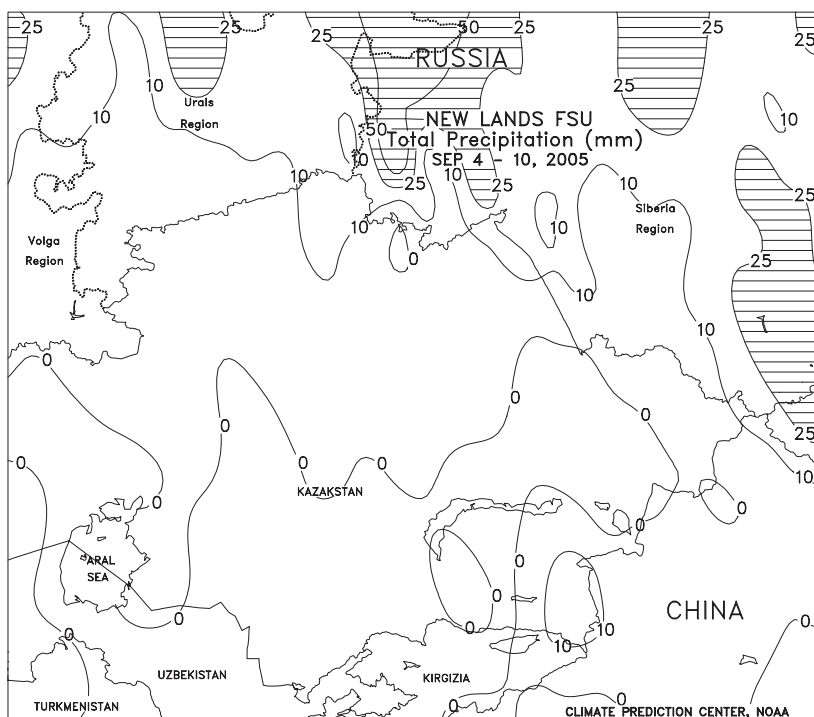


EUROPE

After last week's dry weather, a slow-moving storm triggered widespread, locally heavy showers across much of the continent. Rain was heaviest (50-200 mm) in southwestern France, improving prospects for filling summer crops and providing relief from months of persistent dryness. Farther west, lighter showers (2-25 mm) across the Iberian Peninsula did little to improve yield prospects for maturing summer crops. Much of Spain and Portugal is experiencing their worst drought in over 40 years. Near- to above-normal autumn and winter precipitation will be needed to recharge reservoirs and ensure adequate topsoil moisture for winter grain planting and establishment. In northern Europe, warm, dry weather favored final spring grain harvesting, although late-week showers slowed fieldwork but boosted moisture supplies for vegetative to reproductive summer crops. Farther east, a 2nd consecutive week of locally heavy rain (50-100 mm) in northern Italy boosted moisture supplies for filling corn, while showers (5-15 mm) in the Balkans promoted summer crop development.

**FSU-WESTERN**

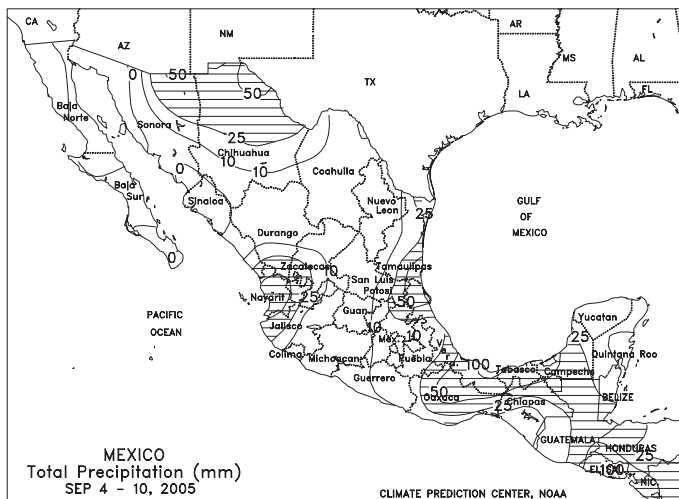
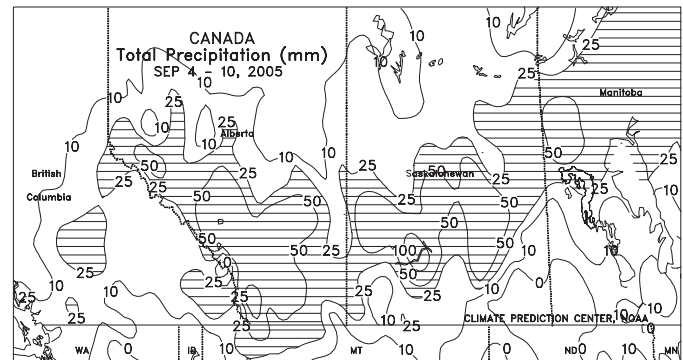
Unseasonably warm, dry weather throughout most of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus aided early summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting. September is the optimum month for planting winter grains in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia. Persistent dryness in the Central and Southern Regions in Russia and parts of eastern Ukraine has created unfavorable conditions for winter grain germination and establishment. Rain is needed in these areas to ensure uniform germination and fall establishment. Reports from Ukraine indicated that winter wheat, rye and rapeseed were 12, 16, and 66 percent planted, respectively. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C above normal throughout the region.

**FSU-NEW LANDS**

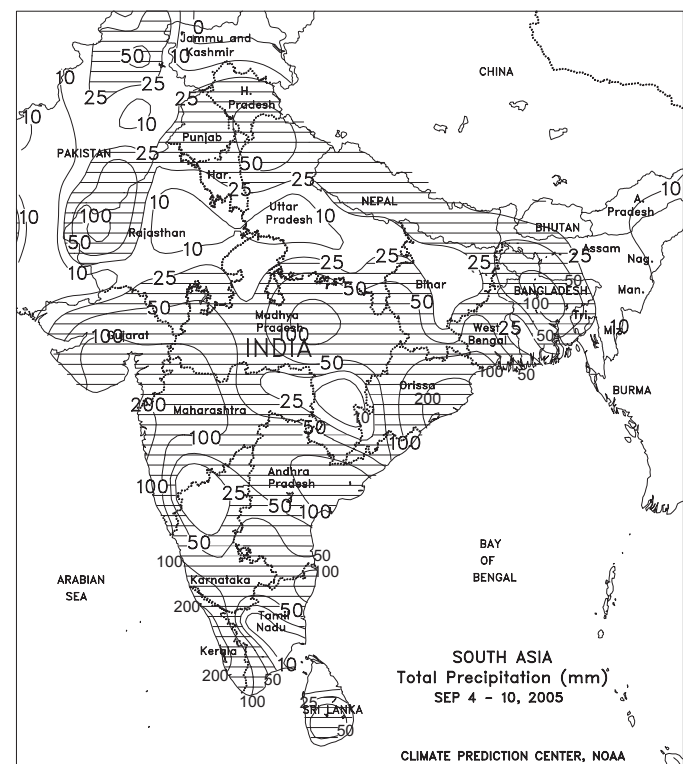
In Kazakhstan, welcomed drier weather improved conditions for spring grain maturation and harvesting previously delayed by heavy rain in the north-central portion of the country. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Kazakhstan. In Russia, periodic showers (3-25 mm or more) slowed harvest in some areas, especially the western portion of the Siberia Region, where rainfall exceeded 25 mm. In Russia, reports as of September 12 indicated that small grains and pulses, excluding corn, were 73 percent harvested. In cotton areas of Central Asia, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored boll maturation and early cotton harvesting.

CANADA

Late-week soaking rain (25-50 mm or more) overspread much of Alberta and Saskatchewan, disrupting spring grain and oilseed harvesting and raising concern for crop quality and potential damage from lodging. According to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, fieldwork progressed well in the southwestern Prairies prior to the rainfall, although fieldwork lagged the 5-year average pace. In the eastern Prairies, mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (averaging 3-5 degrees C above normal) aided drydown and harvesting of spring crops in southeastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Most Prairie growing areas have yet to receive their first freeze of the season, allowing immature crops to accumulate additional heating units. Many agricultural districts in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and western Manitoba typically experience their first autumn freeze by September 10. In eastern Canada, mostly dry, seasonably warm weather maintained unseasonably high rates of growth in corn and soybean areas of southern Ontario. Topsoil moisture is needed for germination of winter wheat in most major growing areas.

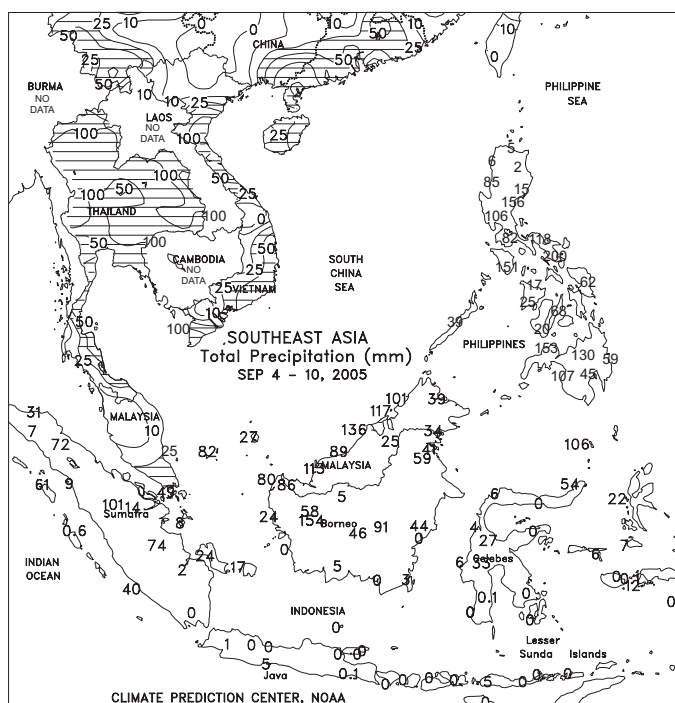
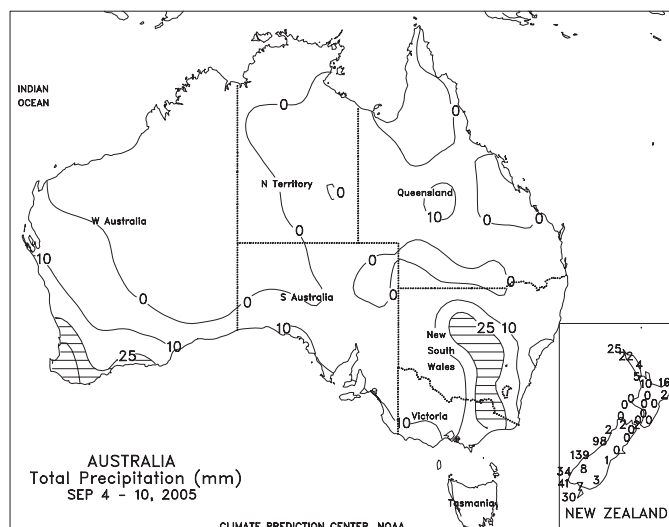
**MEXICO**

Scattered, light to moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) continued across the southern plateau corn belt, boosting topsoil moisture for immature summer crops. In addition, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) fell in Veracruz and Chiapas. Farther north, seasonal rains (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) continued in the northeast (Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon) and much of the northwest (including Sinaloa and Chihuahua), increasing local irrigation reserves. Northwestern Mexico has passed its climatological date for peak rainfall, and showers should become less abundant over the next 4 to 6 weeks as the dry season approaches.

**SOUTH ASIA**

Monsoon rain returned to Pakistan and northern India following a nearly month-long lull, while seasonal showers prevailed elsewhere. After a drier-than-normal August, locally heavy rain (25-100 mm) across northern India provided much-needed moisture for vegetative to reproductive summer crops and eased the impacts of recent excessive heat (35-45 degrees C). In Bangladesh and eastern India, moderate showers (25-100 mm) maintained adequate topsoil moisture for main-season rice. Heavy showers (50-200 mm or more) in Orissa and the western groundnut basin likely caused flooding and local damage to low-standing crops. Across southern India, widespread, locally heavy rain (50-200 mm) further improved prospects for vegetative cotton and groundnuts. In Pakistan, dry, hot (38-42 degrees C) weather gave way to widespread rain (10-25 mm or more) by midweek, promoting rice and cotton development and easing irrigation demands.

Widespread showers across much of southern Australia contrasted with lingering dryness in Queensland. In Western Australia, scattered showers (2-17 mm) maintained adequate moisture supplies for jointing winter wheat and barley, although cool weather (1-2 degrees C below normal) slowed crop development. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain (20-50 mm) in South Australia and Victoria eased short-term dryness, improving prospects for vegetative winter grains. Farther east, beneficial showers (2-20 mm) in New South Wales contrasted with unfavorably dry, warm (2-4 degrees C above normal) weather in winter grain areas of southern Queensland.



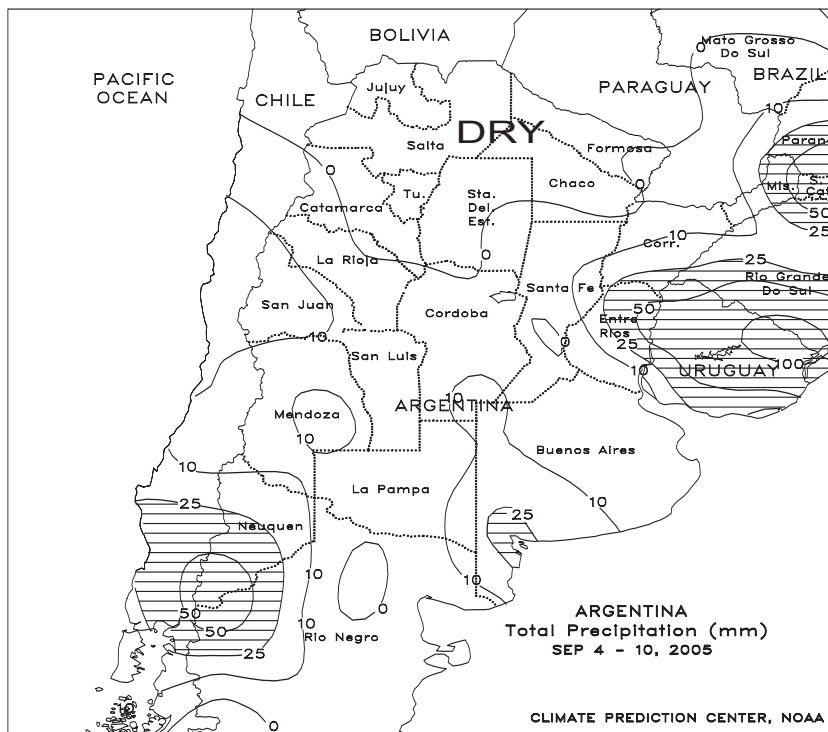
Widespread heavy showers (50-200 mm) boosted moisture supplies for reproductive rice in Thailand while continuing to increase reservoir levels. However, the rain slowed corn harvesting in central Thailand. Seasonal showers (25-100 mm) prevailed in Vietnam and the Philippines, boosting irrigation supplies for rice (and corn in the Philippines). The widespread, heavy showers of last week abated in Sumatra and Malaysia, allowing oil palm harvesting to continue.



Seasonably dry, warm (1-5 degrees C above normal) weather aided corn and soybean maturation and drydown in Manchuria. Likewise, favorably dry weather on the North China Plain benefited drydown of corn and soybeans and was especially beneficial in drying cotton bolls that have been saturated from persistent heavy rain. Reports indicate that harvesting of summer crops is underway throughout most southern growing areas of China. Typhoon Khanun was entering the East China Sea late in the week and was approaching the eastern coast of China. Elsewhere, Typhoon Nabi made landfall in southern Japan, causing flooding across the southern islands. The storm also produced heavy rain (50-200 mm) along the eastern coast of South Korea.

**BRAZIL**

Coffee harvesting was nearing completion in major growing areas of the center-west region, although scattered showers (5-25 mm or more) may have caused local delays. According to independent analyst Safras e Mercado, 2004/05 coffee was 94 percent harvested as of September 5, compared with 89 percent last season. The rainy season usually begins in September, and this week's rain is a start toward replenishing moisture reserves for the 2005/06 growing season, especially for the region's coffee and soybeans. In southern Brazil, showers (10-50 mm or more) maintained moisture reserves for immature winter wheat. Near- to slightly below-normal temperatures accompanied the rainfall, but lows stayed well above freezing.

**ARGENTINA**

Seasonable warmth (highs reaching the lower and middle 20s degrees C) boosted growth of vegetative to heading winter wheat across the main growing areas of central Argentina. At week's end, scattered, mostly light showers (3-10 mm or more) swept across the region, with significant rainfall (greater than 25 mm) generally confined to outlying growing areas in Entre Rios. Additional rain is needed in most major winter wheat areas to ensure normal early development, especially as crops enter reproductive phases of development over the next few weeks. Rain is also needed across northern Argentina, where warm (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C), mostly dry weather maintained high evaporative losses of already limited topsoil moisture. According to Argentina's Agricultural Secretariat (SAGPyA), corn planting made good early progress in Santa Fe and Entre Rios, but delays in sunflower planting due to dryness were common across the north.